

## **What is Green Building?**

Simply put, Green Building promotes conservation of natural resources. Green Building looks at a building as an integrated system where each part of the building has an influence on the other parts. The program promotes the ecological concept that no action happens in isolation. Green Building considers the following aspects of sustainability:

- Conserving natural resources
- Preserving health of people and the environment
- Strengthening the local economy
- Improving quality of life

## **Why Choose Green Building?**

A Green Building Program enables utilities and government entities to measurably reduce energy consumption in new and remodeled homes and commercial structures. The key benefit provided by a Green Building Program is that it allows utilities and government agencies to manage their resources, both financial and environmental, more effectively. It is a proven method for reducing energy and water consumption, reducing waste material currently filling up landfills, increasing the amount of recycled and reused building products, and improving the indoor air quality of new and remodeled buildings. The Program will also provide the means to reduce outdoor and indoor water consumption and increase the health and safety factor in construction projects.

## **Benefits of a Green Building Program**

- Reduced demand on electric utilities by encouraging more energy efficient design and construction practices.
- Improved air quality, both indoor and outdoor, of the customer's area by providing the construction industry with models for building with the health and safety of workers, occupants and the general public in mind and by reducing emissions from power plants.
- Reduced construction waste and debris going into landfills from remodeling projects by encouraging remodeling and deconstruction practices that reuse and recycle materials.
- Reduced construction waste delivered to landfills from new construction by educating builders, designers and owners on use of recycled content or reused materials and more efficient construction practices.
- Reduced demand for water and wastewater and the energy these systems use by providing the resources to help reduce water use.
- Improved quality of affordable housing in target areas by providing governments with construction standards for housing built with government subsidies.